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Agenda item 101

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Micronesia (Federated States of), Norway, Peru*, Philippines and Sweden: revised draft resolution

Protection of children affected by armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, by which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its resolution 3318 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict,

Recalling that the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 1/ and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, 2/ as well as article 38 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, accord children special protection and treatment,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

2/ Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

Recalling also the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children 3/ and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, 3/ adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, and stressing the necessity of implementing their provisions,

Noting the work of the open-ended working group on the elaboration of a preliminary draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child relating to the involvement of children in armed conflicts,

Taking note of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on its fifth session, 4/ held at Geneva from 10 to 28 January 1994,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/94 of 9 March 1994, 5/

Mindful of the strong support of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, for a proposed study, as reflected in paragraph 50 of section II of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 6/

Profoundly concerned about the continuing deterioration in the situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts, and convinced that immediate action is called for,

Convinced that children affected by armed conflicts require the special protection of the international community and that there is a need for all States to work towards the alleviation of their plight,

Recognizing the valuable work done in this field by United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Recalling its resolution 48/157 of 20 December 1993,

1. Expresses grave concern about the tragic situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts;

3/ See A/45/625, annex.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/49/41).

5/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. A.

6/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

2. Calls upon States fully to respect the dispositions contained in the Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, as well as those in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which accord children affected by armed conflicts special protection and treatment;

3. Recognizes that children in situations of armed conflict and in the immediate aftermath of armed conflict have the right to adequate nutrition, proper medical care and shelter;

4. Also recognizes the right of expectant mothers to the same care and protection, under similar circumstances;

5. Requests Member States and United Nations agencies, within the scope of their respective mandates, to undertake appropriate measures to facilitate the extension of humanitarian assistance and relief and humanitarian access to children in situations of armed conflict and the immediate aftermath of such conflict;

6. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on concrete measures taken to alleviate the situation of children in armed conflict; 7/

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the concrete measures which have been taken to alleviate the situation of children in armed conflict, based on the information to be provided by Member States and United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

8. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its fifth session and the recommendations contained therein concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict;

9. Welcomes the appointment of an expert to undertake a comprehensive study of this question, with the mandate established by resolution 48/157;

10. Takes note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the work of the above-mentioned expert; 8/

11. Notes that support is provided to the expert jointly by the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Centre for Human Rights is provided, within existing resources, with the staff and other resources it requires to assist the expert in the effective discharge of her mandate;

13. Requests Member States and United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

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7/ A/49/411.

8/ A/49/643.

including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to contribute to the study referred to in paragraph 9 of the present resolution;

14. Invites the Commission on Human Rights to consider the study at its fifty-first session;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the study to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

16. Decides to consider this question at its fiftieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children".